

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

storing a data structure that defines hardware resources and software resources of a local device at a computer associated with the local device;

establishing communication with a remote service distribution system; and

requesting a service from the remote service distribution system, the service including transmission of software to the local device, wherein definitions of the hardware resources and software resources of the local device from the data structure are transmitted to the remote service distribution system as part of the service request.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer associated with the local device comprises a network appliance that operates as a gateway to the Internet for the local device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a follow-up service associated with the software is available from the remote service distribution system at a later time than the service, the method further comprising storing information at the computer specifying that the follow-up service is available.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the follow-up service comprises an upgrade of the software.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the follow-up service comprises an extension module of the software.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising reestablishing communication with the remote service distribution system at a later time based on the information specifying that a follow-up service is available such that the follow-up service can be provided to the local device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein reestablishing communication is performed automatically and without user initiation thereof.

8. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a network interface module configured to provide an interface to a remote device;
at least one service available to the remote device; and
a resource analysis module configured to analyze hardware resources on the remote device in relation to the at least one service.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising a storage device that stores software packages pertaining to the at least one service.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the network interface module is an Internet interface that connects to the Internet and provides a public interface, wherein the public interface provides limited access to the system.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the network interface module is an Internet interface that connects to the Internet and provides a private interface, wherein the private interface provides secure access to an outlet for purposes of uploading additional software to the system.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the network interface module is connected to the Internet via a data connection.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one service includes both initial services and follow-up services, wherein initial services are performed immediately upon request and follow-up services are performed at a later time.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the initial services include the ability to download software packages to operate on the remote device.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the follow-up services include automatically updating an initial service on a remote device when an update to the initial service becomes available.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the hardware resources are analyzed in relation to the at least one service to determine which services are compatible with the remote device.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the resource analysis module is further configured to identify software resources available on the remote device, and the software resources are analyzed in relation to the at least one service to determine which services would enhance the identified software resources.

18. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
establishing a connection with a remote device;
identifying hardware resources on the remote device;
displaying a list of available services that are compatible with the hardware resources on the remote device;
receiving a request to perform at least one service including at least one initial service;
and
performing the at least one service.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising reestablishing a connection with the remote device and performing any requested follow-up services.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising, if the hardware resources available on the remote device were not fully identified, prompting a user of the remote device to manually input the hardware resources available on the remote device.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein establishing a connection with a remote device further comprises providing a public interface that is publicly accessible over the Internet and establishing a connection with a remote device via the public interface.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein identifying the hardware resources available on the remote device further comprises accessing a data structure associated with remote device defining the hardware resources available on the remote device.

23. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein displaying a list of available services that are compatible with the hardware resources available on the remote device further comprises analyzing available services in relation to the hardware resources available on the remote device.

24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the request to perform at least one service is received at the service distribution system from the remote device via the Internet.

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein performing the at least one initial service comprises transmitting at least one software package to the local device.

26. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
establishing a connection with a remote device;
identifying hardware and software resources available on the remote device;
analyzing the hardware and software resources available on the remote device in relation to one or more services available on a service distribution system; and
displaying a list of services that would enhance the hardware and software resources available on the remote device.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein establishing a connection with the remote device further includes providing an interface that is publicly accessible over the Internet and establishing a connection with a remote device via the interface.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein identifying hardware resources available on the remote device further includes:
analyzing whether the remote device has previously connected to the service distribution system;
if the remote device has previously connected to the service distribution system, identifying software resources available on the remote device and accessing a data structure including available hardware resources of the remote device; and
if the remote device has not previously connected to the service distribution system, identifying software and hardware resources available on the remote device by receiving information specifying the software and hardware resources from the remote device.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein analyzing the hardware resources available on the remote device in relation to a set of services available on the service distribution system further comprises eliminating services which would not be compatible with hardware resources available on the remote device and determining if any of the non-eliminated services would enhance software resources on the remote device.